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EOC Spot Report Update #14: Region 6, Fire at International Terminal Corporation, Deer Park, TX (NRC# 1240304)

US Environmental Protection Agency
Report as of March 27, 2019 12:36 EDT

Overview: On March 17th, Region 6 was notified about the fire at International Terminal Corporation (ITC) in Deer Park, Houston TX. A tank containing naptha caught fire. The total capacity of the tank is 80,000 barrels. The PRP initiated sampling of all brands of foam used during the response to determine if any contained PFOS and PFOA. Water sampling operations are ongoing with additional sampling for PFOS, PFOA, VOCs, SVOCs, COD, and Oil & Grease. Booming operations continue in the areas of Tucker and Buffalo Bayous.

TCEQ conducted overflight operations to observe the impacted tank farm, Tucker Bayou, and the Houston Ship Channel

All Py Gas tanks contents have been reduced to residue. It is expected that this will reduce benzene vapors from the ITC tank farm. The PRP is assessing the status of a tank containing Toluene.

EPA handheld air monitoring continues at 54 locations. No results above the detection limit have been observed. The TAGA analyzed the air samples for benzene, toluene and xylene and found no exceedances of the short-term AMCVs for toluene and xylene. The TAGA air sampling results did find exceedances of the short-term AMCV for benzene. The ASPECT has not conducted overflights since the last report.

State, Local, and other Federal Agency Action: Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) is on scene. The PRP has contracted with an incident management team to help manage the incident. The contractor mobilized additional resources (skimmers, vac trucks, and frac tanks) to conduct cleanup operations at the Tucker and Buffalo Bayou. USCG personnel are participating in Unified Command, focusing on water operations in Tucker Bayou (booming and skimming of foam).

EPA Actions: EPA and START mobilized on March 17th and entered Unified Command with TCEQ, Harris County Pollution Control Services Department (HCPCS), and ITC. There are currently 3 Region 6 OSCs on scene.

EPA is developing an Emergency Funding Authorization (EFA) for both the United States Coast Guard (USCG) and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to continue funding for operations.

Media Interest: Medium

<https://abc13.com/harris-county-to-take-legal-action-against-itc-over-tank-fire/5218159/>

The HQ EOC will continue to monitor and provide updates as needed
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